

# GULF DEFENDER



Vol. 65, No. 16

Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Home of Air Dominance Training*

April 21, 2006

## In brief

### Volunteer recognition

Sunday–April 28 is National Volunteer Week. There is a volunteer recognition reception 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Officers' Club. For reservations or information on other events, contact the Family Support Center 283-4204/4205.



### Earth Day celebration

In recognition of Earth Day, the 325th Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Flight will sponsor an environmental awareness booth 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. today at the Commissary. The booth will be equipped with base-specific environmental literature, pamphlets, coloring books and recycling wheels for children. For more information, contact ChiQuita George at 283-4498.

## What's inside



'Foam test' e-mail causes misperception problems  
... **PAGE 4**

Youth explore environment  
... **PAGE 23**



Courtesy photo

## They're here!

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds fly in formation. The service's premiere aerial demonstration team headlines the 2006 Gulf Coast Salute Saturday and Sunday. See Pages 1s–12s for this year's "Thunder Over the Gulf" supplement.

# First AMU load crew wins competition



Master Sgt. Mary McHale

**Senior Airman Brett Ruppel, 1st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron weapons loader, inspects an AIM-9 Sidewinder missile during the competition.**

**MASTER SGT. MARY MCHALE**  
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A crew from the 1st Aircraft Maintenance Unit took the 325th Maintenance Group Load Crew of the Quarter title during a weapons-loading competition between Tyndall's four AMUs April 14.

The competition, also known as "Loadeo," is comprised of several parts, said Tech. Sgt. Ralph Moseley, weapons standardization section F-22A standardization lead crew chief.

Crews begin the competition with a dress and appearance inspection, then a 25-question test. Following that, each then waits to perform their scheduled load on an aircraft in a nearby hangar.

"Teams start with 3,000 points," Sergeant Moseley said. "From there, points can be deducted for a variety of infractions to include appearance violations, technical order deviations, safety and reliability issues, and time infractions."

Sergeant Moseley explained a reliability issue can be anything that oc-

curs to compromise the proper operation of the weapon.

Amounts that can be deducted vary widely according to the infraction. On one hand is 500 points for a non-loaded munition all the way down to one point for each second taken beyond the established time.

For this competition, the crews loaded two AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles and two AIM-120 advanced medium range air-to-air missiles. The F-15 crews were allowed 35 minutes while the Raptor crew had 40 minutes since extra steps are involved during their load process.

On each three-person crew is a team chief, a number-two slot and number three slot with each having very specific duties and responsibilities for the duration of the loading process. While the team chief is responsible for all that occurs during the load, the number-two slot person prepares the aircraft weapons

● **SEE LOADEO PAGE 11**

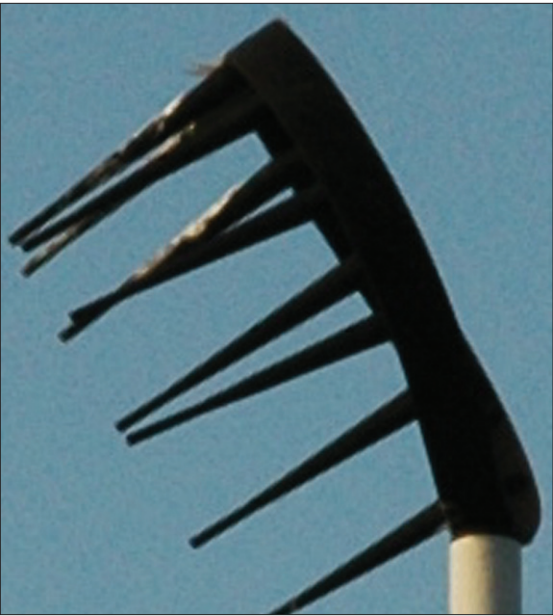


Chrissy Cuttita

### ‘Eggcited’ for prizes

Jameela Brodie, Brianna Moses and Ayanna Williams hunt for toy-and candy-filled plastic eggs Saturday on the ball field during the Youth Center’s ninth annual Big Bunny egg hunt. Some were lucky to find numbered paper in their eggs for tickets to bigger prizes. More than 400 children showed up that morning for the event.

### Identify this...



Can you identify this object? If so, send an e-mail to [editor@tyndall.af.mil](mailto:editor@tyndall.af.mil) with “Identify This” in the subject line. Three correct entries will be chosen at random and drawn from a hat to select the final winner. The prize can be claimed at the Public Affairs office. The winner for the April 14 “Identify This” is Deb Honosky, Air Force Research Laboratory. She correctly guessed it was a MARSHMALLOW PEEPS® chick. Come claim your prize!

## ON THE STREET

### 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group: What are you looking forward to seeing at the air show?



“I would really like to see the C-5 because I’ve never seen it up close.”

**AIRMAN 1ST CLASS  
MATTHEW LUDLAM**  
53rd Weapons Evaluation Group  
commander’s support staff



“I can’t wait to see the World War II era planes and the really awesome E-9A on display.”

**2ND LT. STEVE JORDAN**  
53rd Test Support Squadron, test support  
engineer



“I want to see the new U.S. Air Force Thunderbird show.”

**STAFF SGT. LAKIETA SMITH**  
83rd Fighter Weapons Squadron weapon  
standardization program



“The jump teams. You don’t get to see them often. I always get to see planes take off.”

**STAFF SGT. TIFFANY STARLING**  
82nd Aerial Targets Squadron information  
management

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Commentary

Becoming good followers, supporting the boss

LT. COL. MARC PICCOLO  
325th Services Squadron Commander

fol·low·er·ship  
NOUN: 1. The act or condition of following a leader; adherence.

A pack of wolves is one of the most efficient and lethal hunting teams that exists in the wild. Part of the success of the species can be attributed to their hunting technique.

Although the pack has only one true leader, they hunt as a team. In fact, the very *existence* of the pack depends on teamwork. In a sense, every member of the pack has perfected the art of being a good follower, and as a result, the pack thrives. We can learn a valuable lesson from the wolves – the art of followership.

When I was a new lieutenant on my first assignment, I remember asking a senior NCO in the squadron what my responsibilities were. His reply remains with me because it was clear and concise and his words are as relevant now as they were then.

He said, “It’s your job to support the boss.” Over the years that bit of fairly general guidance has served me well. I’ve learned that to be a good leader, you need to be a good follower first because the two concepts go hand-in-hand. Leaders at all levels must foster and teach followership. Too often we overlook the importance of followership as a valued trait in our subordinates and in ourselves.

It’s important for all of us to understand what followership means and to embrace it and teach

it. If a leader doesn’t understand the essence of followership, he or she may unintentionally squelch the efforts of well-meaning subordinates. Similarly, those who don’t embrace the concept may not be supporting their supervisor in the best possible way.

So what is it that defines a good follower? The answer is not simple because different scenarios require different levels of followership, but there are some general guidelines that we all should review from time to time as part of our recurring training on how to be a good follower. One of the most important aspects of being of good follower is to develop a keen sense of responsibility – responsibility for your subordinates and responsibility for your actions.

Similarly, a good follower understands the importance of being technically proficient. You do this by staying in the books and maintaining your technical competency, even as you rise through the ranks.

This leads to another important trait of a good follower – thoroughness. This may seem like an odd trait. Certainly it’s not a trait as commonly spoken of as dependability, loyalty, or honesty, but it is a trait that deserves our attention as we strive to become better followers. Thoroughness means going the extra mile to get the facts when the boss asks for information or gives you a problem to solve. It involves thinking about all the options, seeking supporting information from a variety of sources, and identifying any unintended consequences of your recommended solution. It



Courtesy Photo

**Wolves are one species that exemplify the characteristics of followership.**

also means anticipating your boss’s questions on the matter, as well as the questions his boss may ask him. As the Air Force continues to evolve into a lighter and leaner force, good followership will become even more critical to the effectiveness of the force. We must never forget that leadership and followership are intertwined. The most effective leaders find a balance between the two.

Action Line:

**Q:** Why are there no longer any book sales at the library? It’s a good way to rotate books and raise funds.

**A:** Thank you for your comments. The library has not discontinued book sales. In fact, our next sale will occur May 25-28. Our last sale raised \$700. The reason for the lengthy delay between this sale and the next is manpower.

Book sales are rather labor intensive and our staff is small. If you are interested, I’m sure the library staff would be thrilled to have your assistance in making our next book sale a complete success.

Action Line  
Call 283-2255



BRIG. GEN. JACK EGGINTON  
325th Fighter Wing commander

The Action Line is your direct line to me. It is one way to make Tyndall a better place to work and live. The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely response. You must leave your name, phone number or address to receive a response. Questions or comments of general interest will be published in this forum. This avenue should only be used after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, commanders, first sergeants or facility managers. If you’re not satisfied with the response

or you are unable to resolve the problem, call me at 283-2255. For fraud, waste and abuse calls, you should talk to the 325th Fighter Wing Inspector General’s Office, 283-4646. Calls concerning energy abuse should be referred to the energy hot line, 283-3995. Below are more phone numbers that help you in resolving any issues with a base agency.

Commissary	283-4825
Pass and I.D.	283-4191
Medical and Dental	283-7515

MEO	283-2739
MPF	283-2276
SFS Desk Sgt.	283-2254
Services	283-2501
Legal	283-4681
Housing	283-2036
CDC	283-4747
Wing Safety	283-4231
Area Defense Counsel	283-2911
Finance	283-4117
Civil Engineer	283-4949
Civilian Personnel	283-3203
Base Information	283-1113

Thank you for helping me improve Tyndall and I look forward to hearing from you.

# Bears sighted on Tyndall

Black bears have been seen wandering around Tyndall lately.

Usually they are found in areas not inhabited by humans – in the wetland and swampy areas. But sometimes, bears get curious and roam areas where people live in search of a new kind of food.

Bears are shy creatures and typically avoid confrontation with humans but people should stay away from the bear. If people want to watch, they should do so from a secure distance and location.

If the bear is in a tree, leave the area and allow the bear to come down on its own since they usually climb a tree to get away from people. Once everyone is out of the area, the bear will likely climb down and leave the area.

Do not attempt to attract the bear with food. Intentional feeding is illegal and can result in arrest or fine. Also, feeding bears will have them associate people with food.



Dr. Jack Mobley

**A black bear walks along Gator Way near billeting. The bear seen in Tyndall housing looks similar.**

grills and smokers; livestock feed; compost piles and beehives. Anything that attracts dogs, cats or raccoons will also attract bears. People who leave any of these attractants out can be considered to be intentionally feeding the bear and can be arrested or fined.

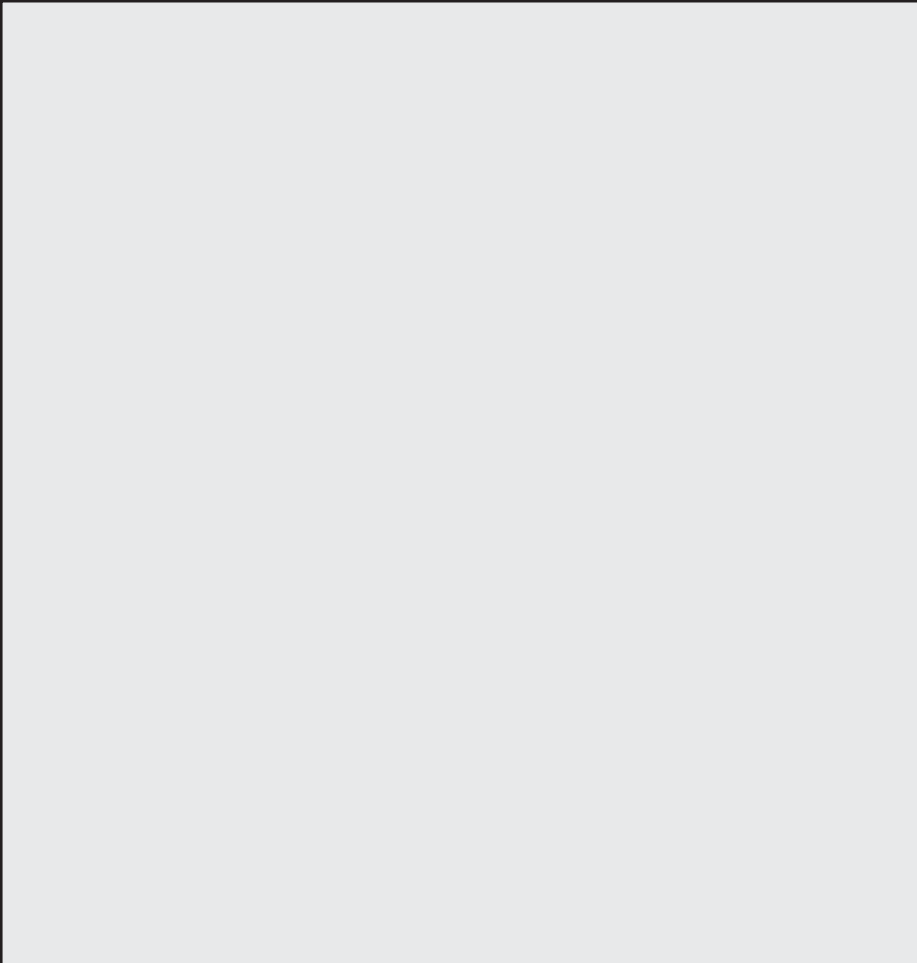
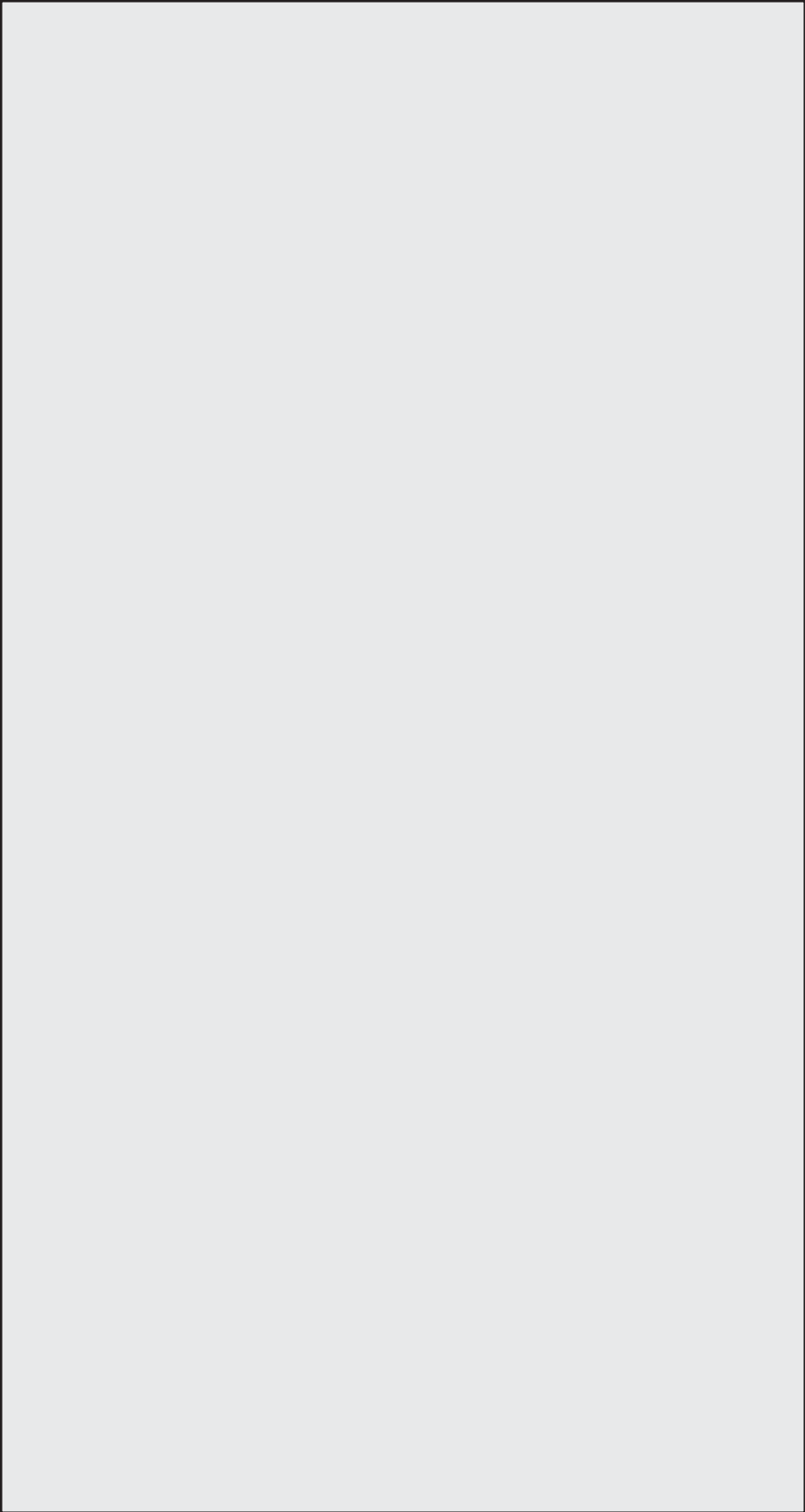
For more information or to report a sighting, call the 325th Civil Engineer Squadron Natural Resources Flight at 283-2641 or 283-2822. If there is no answer or it's after duty hours, contact the 325th Security Forces Squadron at 283-2254.

*(Courtesy 325th Natural Resources flight)*

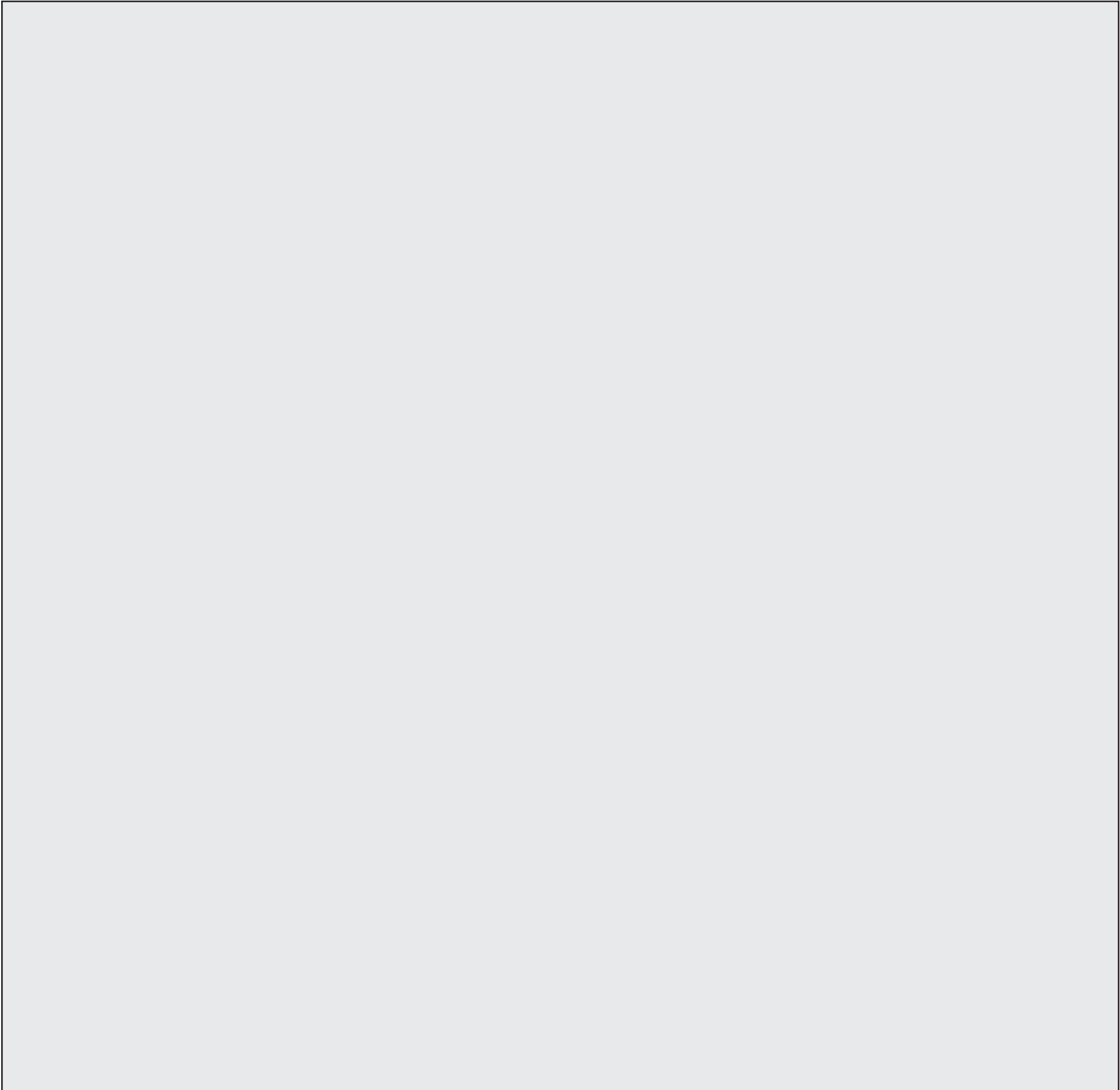
As the bears become bolder and begin helping themselves to things or approaching people who haven't been feeding them, serious problems can occur.

The following items attract bears and must be stored in a secure place:

Garbage cans; bird, squirrel and other wildlife feeders; pet foods and bowls; barbecue



*Run to get your Air Show guide*  
*In today's edition of the Gulf Defender*  
*(right after page 8)*



# 'Foam test' e-mail overflows with perception problems

**TECH. SGT. STEVEN D. WILSON**  
28th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

**ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE, S.D. (AFPN)** — A B-1 hangar is filled with more bubbles than a dinosaur-sized hot tub. There are people standing around with suds up to their eyeballs. People are standing on top of the rafters in the building as foam and bubbles continue to rise.

Did a glacier melt? Did some kind of ultra-secret government underground lab have a freak accident? Most importantly, which maintenance troop's head rolled for this one?

Actually, it's none of the above. Those who have seen the e-mail that seems to be burning up the communication lines across the Department of Defense need to brace themselves: That hangar at Ellsworth AFB, S.D., was filled with foam on purpose.

That misleading e-mail with an attached slide presentation showing photos of the test has caused considerable work in correcting wrong information.

A modern high-expansion foam system was placed in the hangar to replace an aging fire suppression system, said Lt. Col. Navnit Singh, 28th Civil Engineer Squadron commander. The contractor responsible for installing the system submitted a plan prior to installation to test the system. The plan was approved, he said.

The test of the new foam system was conducted Aug. 23. Required coverage occurred within one minute of the system being activated. The test was so successful, the foam reached the observation platform where officials were documenting the procedure.

The Air Force required a minimum of one meter of foam to be achieved in four minutes or less. For testing purposes, the foam was allowed to disperse for the full four minutes.

The observers were surprised at how quickly the system generated the fire suppressing foam, Colonel Singh said.

The system worked so well the exterior door of the hangar had to be opened before the test was fully completed. These events account for the photos of the amount of foam inside and outside of the hangar.

So, did someone have a gross mis-cue? No. On the contrary, a fire suppression system responsible for helping protect vital mission-essential assets and, most importantly, for helping safeguard Airmen's lives, worked extremely well. The foam system exceeded Air Force standards, Colonel Singh said.

The misrepresentation of this test has raised the level of awareness about the far-reaching effects of e-mail and technology.

Master Sgt. Dana Rogers, 28th Communications Squadron superintendent of



Courtesy Photo

**This photo ran in an e-mail with the caption "The foam monster that ate Ellsworth Air Force Base." Its outline read "Test of a fire fighting foam system at an Ellsworth AFB B-1 bomber hangar that was only supposed to last a few seconds, but the system would not shut-off." Sending e-mails with information like this gives a misrepresentation of Air Force missions.**

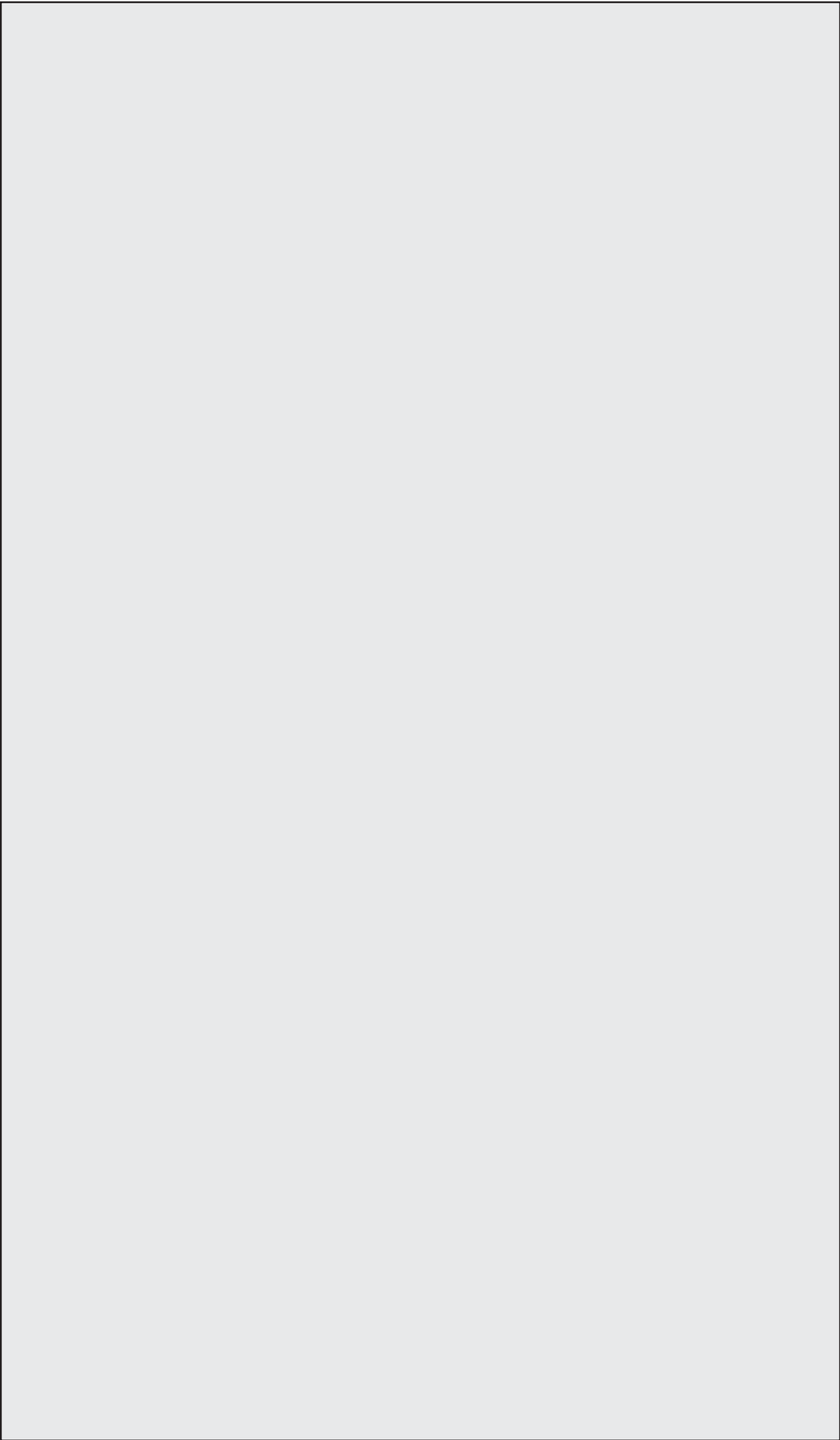
network security, said e-mails such as the one depicting the foam test "misrepresent our capabilities" and can even cause damage to computer networks.

"You think it's so funny, so you send it to 10 people. Then, they send it to 10 more. This takes up an extremely large amount of e-mail space and can lead to the loss of resources," he said.

Another aspect of e-mails that

miscommunicate facts is the amount of time someone may have to take in order to set the record straight. An e-mail that took two seconds to send caused a large number of man-hours to set straight.

"Any time spent responding to an incident like this is a drain on a very precious resource ... time," said Mark Wheeler, 28th CES deputy commander.



# Officer educational records unmasked

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Air Force leaders announced April 13 that promotion boards will once again consider officers’ educational progress as they advance in rank.

A joint letter released from Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley, stated, “Our expeditionary Air Force will need all the cultural, political and technical skills available.”

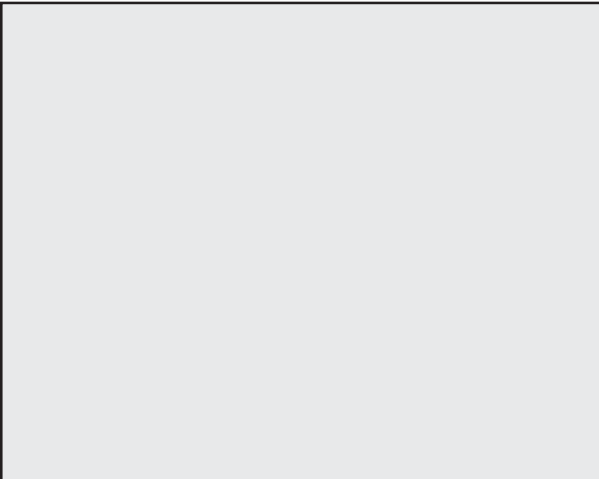
Including an officer’s educational level reverses a decision the Air Force made a few years ago. Educational records were masked because some Airmen were using their benefits to pursue degrees not relevant to Air Force duties, they said.

“Over time, earning a post-graduate degree deteriorated into a method to increase the likelihood of promotion,” the letter reads.

The decision to unmask the educational records comes from an unforeseen adverse effect from the previous masking decision.

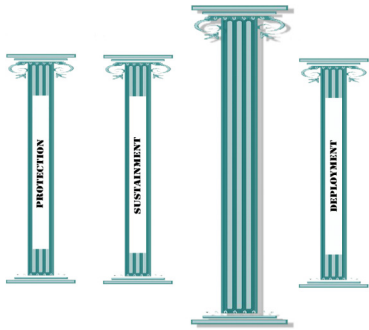
“Unfortunately, many others stopped pursuing degrees that would have benefited themselves and the Air Force. Also, boards were unable to see which Airmen were meeting their full potential,” they said.

“Both of us want to encourage Airmen, not discourage them, from pursuing advanced education,” the letter reads. “There are several avenues to obtain degrees, and the Air Force is developing others. Our nation needs our best and demands nothing less.”



FORCE TRAINING

Panel provides Airmen an open forum



Training Spotlight

What is the most challenging aspect of air battle manager training?

“Integrating everything we know about our aircraft's limits and capabilities, as well as those of our adversaries, interpreting what we see on our scopes and hear on the radio, and anticipating the pilot's intent during the mission.”

2ND LT. STEPHANIE JOHNSON  
air battle manager student

**MASTER SGT. MARY MCHALE**  
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Clearly communicated expectations and more visible supervision are two issues on the minds of Airmen at Tyndall.

At least that’s the consensus from the Airmen who voluntarily participate on the Airman’s panel held at the NCO academy here.

“Technical sergeants have expectations of Airmen and Airmen have expectations of supervisors,” said Tech. Sgt. Clifford Kinchen, academy leadership division superintendent. “But these expectations aren’t always communicated clearly. It’s a case of ‘I didn’t know you didn’t know.’”

To help the academy students gain a clearer understanding of what Airmen expect from them, Sergeant Kinchen solicits volunteers, ranks from airman basic through senior airman. Then he distributes the volunteers between the classes and for 45 minutes, the Airmen and students discuss their concerns in an open, non-attribution forum. He said sometimes the students and volunteers even go to lunch to continue the discussion.

The sergeant said some volunteers are first time but he also has some “regulars.”

“I like to open it to Airmen Basic through Senior Airmen because different ranks have different perspectives and expectations and ask different questions. And my regulars like to return and get different perspectives



**Tech. Sgt. Kristi Sundstrom, 325th Comptroller Squadron customer support NCO in Charge, discusses an office task with Senior Airman Derek Hojohn.**

Chrissy Cuttita

from different technical sergeants.

The sergeant said sometimes the students are surprised by the Airmen’s comments. For example, when the airmen commented on the lack of visibility of their supervisors, a lot of academy students admitted they were not aware this was a concern.

“Several panel members have commented that they don’t see their technical sergeants until something goes wrong, and then it’s bad,” Sergeant Kinchen said.

But the panel also affords the Airmen the opportunity to discover all the responsibilities behind the scenes that keep the noncommissioned officers busy.

“The panel gives the Airman a broader perspective of NCO duties first hand,” the sergeant explained.

“The experience was definitely valuable,” said Senior Airman Derek Hojohn, 325th Comptroller Squadron quality examinations technician. “I feel it is important for us Airmen to be able to express our thoughts and concerns with today’s supervisors. The Air Force is changing day in and day out and sometimes so do our Airmen’s concerns. Also, I feel it is important that the NCOs express their concerns with us as well so we know how to better serve them and the Air Force.”

Sergeant Kinchen said while the panel is primarily for the benefit of the students, it helps the Airmen as well.

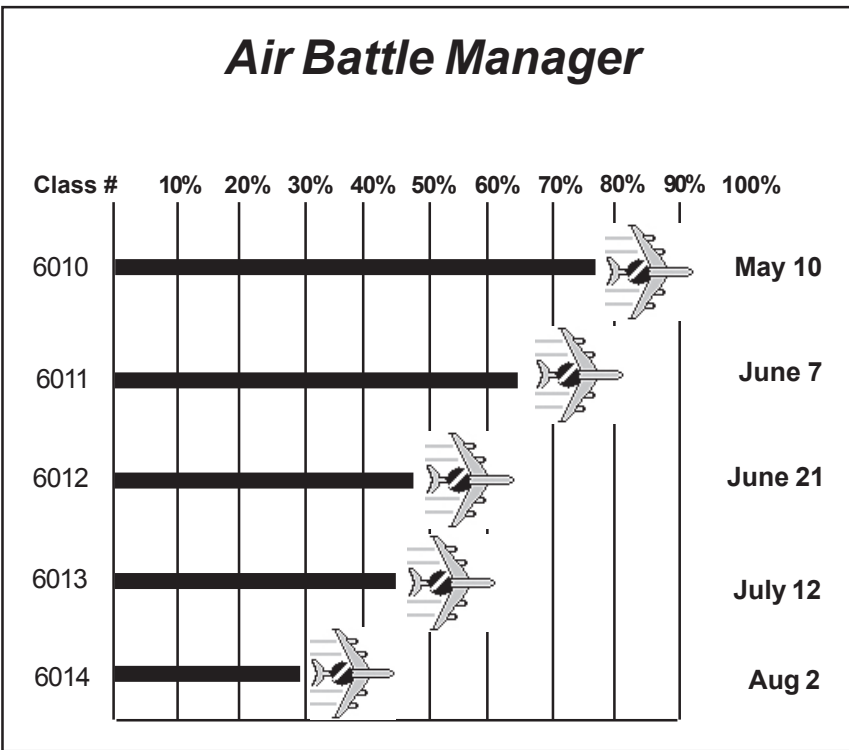
“Some Airmen are unsure about how to approach their supervisors so the students help them with advice about that,” said the superintendent.

“This is one of the most rewarding things I’ve done since I’ve been here,” said Airman 1st Class Aaron Lawler, 325 th Operations Support Squadron. “I do like to think that the question and answer session helps them communicate better with their Airmen.”

1st Lt. Jon Quinlan

Pinned

Air Battle Manager Graduate, 2nd Lt. Jonathan Ritseman, is awarded his occupational badge during the graduation ceremony here Wednesday. The Airmen train at the school here for 120 days to be qualified for an assignment in air battle management on the E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System or the E-8 Joint Surveillance Targeting Attack Radar System.





Chrissy Cuttita

High five

Tyndall's Red Sox and A's teams thank each other for a good game after playing baseball against each other April 13 at the Youth Center's ball field. Players learn the fundamentals of the sport in games against each other and local teams.

# Youth club explores their environment

While some kids will be busy this summer destroying the alien worlds in video games, many Tyndall youth are learning how to take care of our world here, and having a lot of fun doing it.

They're learning how to respect, understand and protect the environment through the Environmental Explorers program, a youth environmental club offered by the 325th Services Squadron's Outdoor Recreation facility at Bonita Bay.

"It's a program that not only teaches but explores and does hands-on activities involving the environment and environmental issues," said Rhonda Davis, Bonita Bay recreational aid and program manager.

The club is free to any Tyndall child ages 6 to 12. Some field trips do require a small charge to cover transportation or entry fees, but according to Ms. Davis, the destination is always worth the trip.

On a recent trip to St. Vincent's wildlife refuge, the group paid for a ferry shuttle to the island where a guide took them around and explained to the children how important the environment is. While they were there, they helped a Boy Scout troop put up a bat house.

And that's the way the club gets its message across to the children – by teaching them while they're having fun. According to Ms. Davis, who has been a teacher in the Leon County school system for the past 20 years, the program works.

"I love this club," she said. "I am a classroom teacher, but this gets me in a different role and let's me teach in ways I just can't do in the classroom. Not only do the children get educated, but they get to explore."

The club meets once a month, and parental participation is required. At meetings, the club discusses environmental issues such as air and water pollution, its effects on the environment, how people can help prevent pollution, and the best ways to co-exist with area wildlife and habitats.

"You have to take stewardship of the Earth," said



Chrissy Cuttita

**Lindsay Brown checks out what she caught in her net at the Youth Explorers Club trip to St. Vincents wildlife refuge in March.**

Allison Brown, a military spouse who takes her children to most club meetings and trips. "We all share the planet, so we have to make it as healthy as possible for future generations."

Ms. Davis also said even if children aren't members of the club, they should still be aware of the importance of our planet.

During a September meeting, the children made toys for the animals at Zoo World as part of an enrichment project for monkeys, tigers and birds that the children added to by giving them things to do," said Stephanie Willard, Zoo World director of education.

She said animals need stimulation or they will get bored, just like children. The Bengal tigers get a little too territorial over the ball the club made, so Zoo World only gives it to the tigers every now and then as a special treat, she added. The bamboo ladders are still up in the monkey cages and the birds still

● SEE EXPLORERS PAGE 12

● FROM LOADEO PAGE 1

stations while the number three slot prepares the weapons for load and drives the “jammer,” the vehicle used to transport and lift the weapon to its station.

“Attention to detail is paramount to each step,” Sergeant Moseley said. “There’s no room for complacency.”

Three evaluators are present for the load from start to finish to note any discrepancies. There is also an arbiter, in case of disagreements.

“Each AMU has their own criteria for selecting the competing crew, but certain criteria such as performance on minimum proficiency requirement loads and quarterly evaluations are looked at,” Sergeant Moseley said.

“It’s an honor for them to be up here loading,” said Tech. Sgt. Aaron Clark, WS loading standardization crew and evaluator. “They represent the best of the best of their units.”

“This is a structured competition where we offer the opportunity to see how they stand up against their peers, but we want it to be enjoyable as well,”



Senior Airman Sarah McDowell

**Staff Sgt. Anthony Dyer, 2nd AMU weapons loader, prepares to attach an AIM-120 AMRAAM missile to the aircraft rail.**



Master Sgt. Mary McHale

**Senior Airman Michael Boone, Airman 1st Class Steven Krask and Staff Sgt. Daniel Weathersby, 95th AMU weapons loaders, prepare to unload an AIM-9 Sidewinder.**

said Senior Master Sgt. Billy Simmons, weapons standardization superintendent.

During the competition, crews are usually offered support from unit personnel who watch from bleachers and offer congratulations afterward.

“I’m really proud of our crew,” said Airman 1st Class Brian Allen, who was in the number two slot for the 1st AMU. This was his first quarterly competition.

Both he and the number three slotted person, Senior Airman Brett Ruppel, said they were nervous at first, but they calmed down as their load progressed.

The 1st AMU wasn’t the only winner. For the first time during a Loadeo, there was also a jammer driving competition where contestants navigated a curved course of orange cones. The winner of this competition was Senior Airman Matthew Baker of the 95th AMU.

“I thought it was a fun event, it feels good to win,” said Airman Baker. “I’m excited to see more competitions.”

“You all should be real proud to be part of this competition,” said Col. Brett Haswell, 325th MXG commander. “Everyone looked really good; keep up the good work.”

● **FROM EXPLORERS PAGE 10**

play with the toys the children made.

“It helps both us and the animals,” said Ms. Willard. “We are a nonprofit organization so the donations (from the youth explorers club) help a great deal. It can get costly to care for animals.”

This event, like others, combined fun with learning, but with that learning came the understanding of a very important message.

“It helps reinforce the lesson that nature is so important,” Ms. Davis said. “Just like the Native Americans understood, we have one Earth, and we need to

make sure we use it properly.”


The children will be busy in upcoming months. The club plans on going to Florida State University’s marine lab in St. Teresa to get a lab tour, research presentations, get the feel of a touch tank and take a boat ride. In May they will take a shuttle out to Shell Island as a reward for cleaning up Bonita Bay’s beach.

For more information on the Environmental Explorers, contact the Outdoor Recreation office at 283-3199.

*(Compiled by 325th Services Squadron and Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office)*

Checkertail Salute

Senior Airman Barbara Woods



Isaac Gibson

**Airman Woods receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Col. Brian Dickerson, 325th Fighter Wing vice commander.**

The Checkertail Clan salutes Airman Woods, 325th Air Control Squadron. Setting the standard in her squadron, she logged 28 hours of mission time preparing 16 air battle manager students for live air control. She also tutors students at local schools.

**Duty title:** Weapons Technician

**Time in service:** Four years, three months

**Hometown:** Ft. Worth, TX

**Hobbies:** Hanging out with my family

**Favorite book:** *Pride & Prejudice* by Jane Austen

**Favorite movie:** The Notebook

**Favorite thing about Tyndall:** The beach

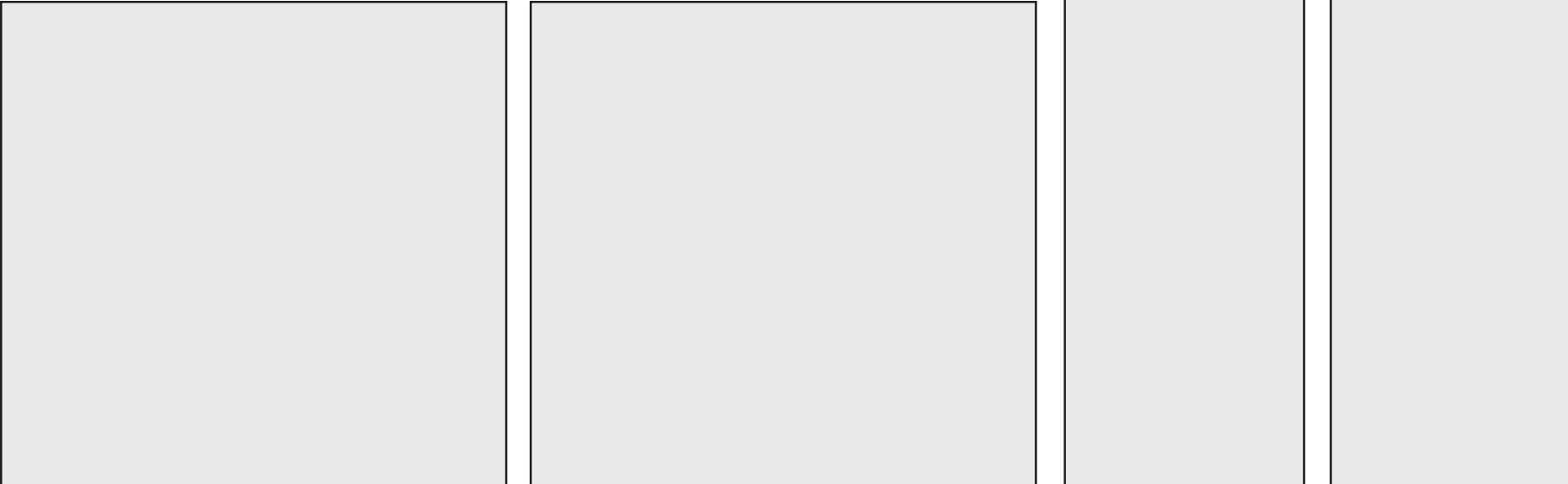
**Goals:** Getting my degree in criminal justice

**Proudest moment in the military:** Receiving this award

**Pet Peeve:** Whining


**Favorite thing about your unit:** My office because the NCOs help you become better at your job

*The Checkertail Salute is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize Tyndall’s Warrior of the Week. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate, letter from the commander and a one-day pass.*



# Associate Spotlight

Jill McDonald




**Ms. McDonald receives the Associate Spotlight award from Lt. Col. Anthony Murphy, 53rd Weapons Evaluations Group deputy commander.**

The Checkertail Clan salutes Ms. McDonald for her service as the sole commader’s support staff member for more than 60 days during recent unit-manning shortages.


**Duty title:** Commander’s support staff secretary  
**Time in Service:** Six years  
**Time on Station:** Six years  
**Hometown:** Panama City, Fla.  
**Hobbies:** Gardening and reading  
**Favorite book:** Everything I’ve ever read by Nora Roberts  
**Favorite movie:** Movies that make me laugh, but I don’t usually watch a movie more than once  
**Goals:** I would like to work for a general again  
**Pet Peeves:** Non-stop chatter when I’m working  
**Favorite thing about your unit:** The friendly atmosphere; folks here are always willing to share their knowledge

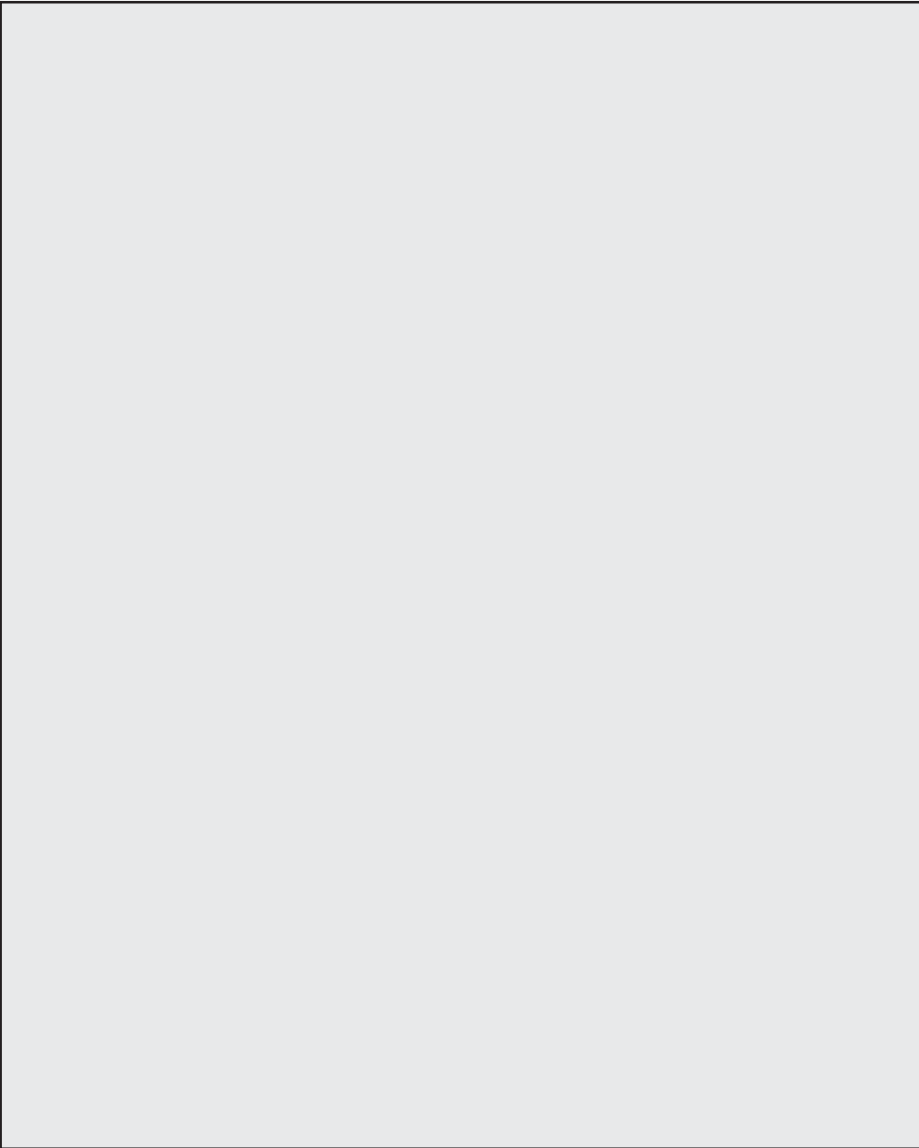
*The Associate Spotlight is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize a Warrior from one of Tyndall’s tenant units. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate from the wing commander and other items presented by their unit.*

The Gulf Defender is published for people like Senior Airman Benjamin Tritt, 2nd Aircraft Maintenance Unit load crew chief.



**Remember Your Wingman**





## Top general thanks military children for thier contributions

**WASHINGTON (AFPN)** — The following is a letter to military children from Marine Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff.

“I want to take this opportunity to recognize the extraordinary contributions of our nation’s military families, who have faced many challenges — from family separations to frequent moves — with great courage. I would especially like to acknowledge a special source of inspiration: children of military families.

You are patient and understanding when duty calls and your mom or dad cannot attend a soccer game, music recital, birthday party or other important family or school activity. You are heroes in a quiet, thoughtful way, and I am grateful for the unconditional love you give your mom and dad.

Many of you have experienced the sad and sometimes frightening experience of having your mom or dad far from home, serving around the globe in places like Iraq and Afghanistan. Through your personal courage and support, you serve this nation, too — and I am proud of you!

Frequent moves are a way of life for the military child. It is never easy to say goodbye to friends and familiar routines, to begin again in a new school, a new neighborhood — and sometimes a new country! But your resilience and self-confidence are strengths that others admire, including your parents.

Growing up in a military family offers some challenges, but it also provides some special rewards. You can be proud of your mom and dad for their brave defense of this great country. Your love and support sustains them. So, thank you for being there for Mom and Dad. You are American patriots and role models for us all.”

*(Editors note: The Department of Defense has designated April as Month of the Military Child to underscore the important role military children play in the armed forces community. “The Night of the Stars” is Tyndall’s last celebration of this month. The youth talent show will start with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and show time is 7:15 p.m. April 28 at the Youth Center.)*

